



# *The Army's Chesapeake Review*

## **Federal Land Stewardship Meets for First Time**

The Federal Land Stewardship (FLS) Workgroup held a kick-off meeting on November 25, 1996 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Annapolis, MD. The members began to define the workgroup's mission and reviewed the objectives of the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP's) *Priorities for Action for Land, Growth, and Stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay* to determine implementation opportunities. For the minutes of this meeting, contact Ms. Aileen Smith, DoD Chesapeake Bay coordinator and chairperson of the FLS Workgroup, at (757) 322-2895.

## **Implementation Committee Meeting News**

An Implementation Committee (IC) meeting was held on December 18, 1996 at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) in Annapolis, MD. Announcements and highlights from the meeting included:

- ◆ The Nutrient Subcommittee is organizing a 1-day workshop on stormwater nutrient maintenance and retrofitting that will be held in May 1997.
- ◆ The Forestry Workgroup has developed an educational video on forest buffers. Contact Al Todd, CBPO, at 1-800-YOURBAY for a copy.
- ◆ The Living Resources Subcommittee reported that the development of the Alosid Plan for shad and herring is behind schedule. To move the plan forward, the focus has been placed solely on the American Shad. Key issues surrounding the plan include ocean intercept fishing, other species, and bicatch fishery.
- ◆ The Budget Steering Committee discussed the revised CBP budget for FY97. Priority projects for FY97 include: obtaining more information on the Bay's airshed and watershed, conducting more sojourns, holding a conference for river and watershed associations, creating an Arbor Day poster, developing the Chesapeake Bay Information Management System, regionalizing community-based planning for sacred places, establishing a Conowingo West Lift operations support for herring and shad, providing Local Government Bay Partner Program support, establishing a CBP presence in New York, working toward the forest buffer goal, and developing a pollution prevention tool kit for local governments. Budget planning for FY98 will begin in February with guidance out by April 1, 1997.
- ◆ The Brownfields Federal Interagency Workgroup is looking for federal, state, and local participants from the Chesapeake watershed for its program. The program is a potential funding source. Contact Ms. Aileen Smith for more information at (757) 322-2895.
- ◆ Mr. Chip Lamason is the new Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) coordinator.
- ◆ Governor Allen (VA) is establishing a Chesapeake Bay Tributary Restoration Trust that will contribute \$11 million every year through taxpayer appropriations to Virginia's Tributary Strategy Program.
- ◆ The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) reported that the Chesapeake Bay Partner Community award program sent out its first applications to communities in January. They plan to award communities in May 1997.
- ◆ The Modeling Subcommittee reported that it tested the watershed model and approved its current calibrations for the 40% nutrient reduction goal. The test demonstrated that forests play a significant role in reducing nitrogen in the Bay.
- ◆ The 1997 Reevaluation Workgroup reported that they are planning to conduct 24 runs on the watershed model to establish/test parameters; model scenarios to determine the effects of the implementation of potential policies; obtain more background information; and determine progress made in 1996 toward achieving the 40% nutrient reduction goal.

## **State of the Bay: Oysters**

Mr. Chris Judy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), updated the IC on the status of oysters in the Bay at the December 18, 1996 meeting. Oyster harvests in the Bay have declined due to overharvesting, disease, pollution, and loss of habitat.

According to Judy, two diseases, discovered in the 1950s and caused by the parasites MSX and Dermo, were a major cause of the oyster's decline from 1987 to 1992. Declines since then are more attributable to lower salinities from heavy rain- and snowfall, particularly during 1993 and 1994. The lower salinities also caused a decline in MSX, but not in Dermo.

Judy said that the long-term goal for spat, or juvenile oysters, is 50 spat/bushel. Currently, the spat count averages 2 to 3 spat/bushel. Judy said that DNR expects to see the same oyster harvest results as last year with some areas being more populated than others.

To help reestablish oyster populations, a goal has been set to restore 5,000 acres of oyster reef habitat in Maryland, 5,000 acres in Virginia, and 1,000 acres in the Potomac River. Maryland and Virginia, however, are approaching their goals differently. Maryland is setting aside acreage at the outset of the program and then establishing habitat restoration projects. Virginia, however, is designating areas as they develop the habitat restoration sites.

Maryland has set aside approximately 4,000 acres for habitat restoration projects at Plum Point. The state has also developed a program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish 2- to 4- acre sites around the Maryland portion of the Bay to test different oyster restoration theories. Community groups are also taking part in Maryland's program and have helped restore approximately 20 acres of oyster reef habitat so far.



# Steering Committee Sets the Course for Army's Chesapeake Initiative

The Army's Chesapeake Bay Initiative (CBI) Steering Committee convened at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., on December 3, 1996. Mr. Jewel Simmons, MDW, hosted the meeting which reconvened the Steering Committee that had not met since June 1995.

Mr. Martin Elliott, Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), Office of the Directorate of Environmental Programs (ODEP), discussed the significance of Army participation in the CBI program and the purpose of the Steering Committee. According to Elliott, the purpose of the committee is to bring together representatives from various levels of the Army in the Bay watershed to exchange expertise and help guide the Army's CBI Program.

Mr. Janmichael Graine, U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC), gave a historical overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and discussed current CBP and Army initiatives.

Ms. Helene Merkel, Horne Engineering Services, Inc., discussed work currently underway to complete the Army's CBI FY96 workplan. These tasks include: the FY94/95 Progress Report; an In-Progress Review meeting; a Federal Facility Site Assessment; a manual on alternative sources of funding, partnerships, and completion of 1383 packages; four articles on Army CBI programs and projects; a review of Bay installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans; and pilot studies at two installations.

Ms. Susan Phelps, Horne Engineering Services, Inc., provided an overview of the FY97 CBI workplan, which

includes the FY96 Progress Report; the Army's Chesapeake Environmental Update newsletter; an Army breakout session at the Department of Defense (DoD) Chesapeake Bay conference; a Commander's Briefing slide show; four articles on Army CBI programs and projects; a Federal Facility Site Assessment; a habitat restoration (BayScapes) project; a paper for the American Defense Preparedness Association conference; a pilot Army Chesapeake Bay Awards program; an updated Army CBI brochure; an Army CBI homepage; and compliance tracking of Army installations within the Bay watershed.

After lunch, Simmons took the committee members on a walking tour of Fort McNair. The members returned to the meeting room and conducted a roundtable discussion where several recommendations were made to improve and strengthen the Army's CBI program. For a copy of the meeting's minutes, contact Ms. Shana Wales, Horne Engineering Services, Inc., at (703) 641-1100.

## *Army Chesapeake Bay Initiative Steering Committee Members*

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Dorothy Keough	Fort Belvoir	Installation Support	(703) 806-0049

## *Other Items*

An In-Progress Review (IPR) meeting is scheduled for March 31, 1997 at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, Md. Contact Susan Phelps, Horne Engineering, at (703) 641-1100 for more information.

Fort Belvoir is scheduled to host a Federal Facility Site Assessment on March 25, 1997. Fort Lee plans to host a site assessment on April 24, 1997.

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